

CLAIMS

1. A system for monitoring and managing product inventory items comprising:
 - 5 a master database on a computer server storing data elements in data tables relating to the product inventory items at one or more retail sales operations;
 - a data collection device having an internal memory, a data input interface, a display screen, and a communication
10 link to the master database on the computer server;
 - one or more data elements transmitted to the master database on the communication link to update a data element in a data table; and
 - a disposition instruction for specified product items
15 transmitted to the data collection device on the communication link, said disposition instruction providing an instruction on the disposition of one or more specified product items.

2. The system for monitoring and managing product inventory items of Claim 1 wherein the received data elements updating the master database are transmitted from a retailer.
- 5 3. The system for monitoring and managing product inventory items of Claim 1 wherein the received data elements updating the master database are transmitted from a manufacturer.
- 10 4. The system for monitoring and managing product inventory items of Claim 1 wherein data elements stored in the master database include a unique product item identifier.
- 15 5. The system for monitoring and managing product inventory items of Claim 1 wherein the data elements stored in the master database include a product item description.
- 20 6. The system for monitoring and managing product inventory items of Claim 1 wherein the data elements stored in the master database include a product item manufacturer identifier.

- 5 7. The system for monitoring and managing product inventory
 items of Claim 1 wherein the data elements stored in
 the master database include information associated with a
 retail level store.

8. A method for implementing a disposition instruction for unsold product items in inventory at a retail level store comprising the steps of:

providing a master database on a computer server that stores product information and disposition instructions for specified product items in a retail store inventory;

transmitting one or more data elements on product information to said computer server to update a data table in said master database with the one or more data elements;

transmitting disposition instructions for specified product items from the computer server; and

implementing said disposition instructions for specified product items at the retail level store.

9. The method for implementing a disposition instruction for unsold product items in inventory at a retail level store of Claim 8 wherein disposition instructions include hold for vendor instructions.

10. The method for implementing a disposition instruction for unsold product items in inventory at a retail level store of Claim 8 wherein disposition instructions include donate instructions.

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11. The method for implementing a disposition instruction for unsold product items in inventory at a retail level store of Claim 8 wherein disposition instructions include destroy instructions.

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12. The method for implementing a disposition instruction for unsold product items in inventory at a retail level store of Claim 8 wherein disposition instructions include special handling instructions.

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13. The method for implementing a disposition instruction for unsold product items in inventory at a retail level store of Claim 8 further comprising the steps of:
- 5 providing a data collection device with a display screen, data input interface, and communication link to the master database; and
- transmitting a data element to the master database from the data collection device.
- 10 14. The method for implementing a disposition instruction for unsold product items in inventory at a retail level store of Claim 13 further comprising the step of receiving a disposition instruction for a specified product item at the data collection device.

15. A method for acquiring data and managing product items at a retail level store comprising the steps of:

providing a master database on a computer server

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storing data elements associated with identified product items and including disposition instructions for specified product items;

providing a data collection device having an internal

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memory, a data input interface, a display screen, and a communication link to the master database on the computer server;

inputting one or more data elements into the field

device in a retail level store using said data input interface;

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transmitting said one or more data elements from the data collection device to said computer server to update a data table in said master database;

transmitting disposition instructions from the master database to the data collection device; and

displaying the disposition instruction for a specified product item on the display screen of the data collection device.

- 5 16. The method for acquiring data and managing product items at a retail level store of Claim 15 further comprising the steps of:

 inputting a unique product item data element for one or more specified product items into the data collection device; and

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 transmitting one or more data elements associated with said unique product item data element to the computer server for storing in the master database.

- 15 17. The method for acquiring data and managing product items at a retail level store of Claim 16 wherein the data elements include a response to a question displayed on the field device.

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18. The method for acquiring data and managing product items at a retail level store of Claim 16 wherein the data elements include an identifier for the disposition implemented for the product item.
19. The method for acquiring data and managing product items at a retail level store of Claim 16 wherein the data elements include a shipping destination.
- 10 20. The method for acquiring data and managing product items at a retail level store of Claim 15 further comprising the step of transmitting disposition instructions for one or more specified product items.